

LPC Monthly



The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

January 1997

Convention Update

The LPC's 1997 Convention to Convene in Sacramento

Mark Your Calendars! On February 13-17 (President's Weekend), the Libertarian Party of California will hold its annual convention in our state's capital, Sacramento. For five days, Libertarians from all over the Golden State will gather to conduct party business, elect new officers, attend special events and celebrate the blessings of liberty.

The convention is open to everyone — LPC members, their guests and the general public — and will be held at The Beverly Garland Hotel, a warm and comfortable establishment reminiscent of a mountain lodge. There, officers and regional delegates will meet to conduct party business. Topping their agenda will be the annual election of officers (see "Officer Elections" on page 3) and discussions of the party's platform and bylaws. Meanwhile, non-official visitors can enjoy a variety of activities and events, including guest speakers, panels and seminars, an awards banquet, and several luncheons and dinners.

Among the convention's many highlights will be a two-day "Grassroots Seminar," free to all LPC members, in which veteran activists will provide valuable information about building membership and increasing effectiveness within local regions. Other special events include a Sunset Dinner Cruise aboard an historic paddle-wheel riverboat, and a tour of the State Capitol Building. Conventioneers can choose from a variety of activity packages to suit their tastes and pocketbooks.

In addition to attending the seminars,



This year the LPC holds its convention in Sacramento, site of the State Capitol.

events and planned excursions, conventioneers can also visit numerous local attractions, including Sutter's Fort, Old Sacramento, the historic Governor's Mansion, and the renowned Crocker Art Gallery. Their only challenge will be finding the time to do everything.

If you are a longtime Libertarian activist, you won't want to miss this chance to gather with your friends and comrades. If you have never participated in an LPC event before, attending this convention is a perfect opportunity for you to step forward, learn more about our organization, and make the acquaintance of scores of fellow liberty-lovers. So don't wait — reserve your space at the Libertarian Party of California's 1997 Convention today!

The Beverly Garland Hotel is located at 1780 Tribute Road, just off the I-80 Freeway at the Cal Expo Exit. It offers over two hundred guest rooms, including many townhouse suites, and provides free shuttle service to-and-from the Sacramento Airport. Guest rooms for the convention are priced at \$75.00 (plus tax) per day for single or double occu-

pancy accommodations. To make your reservations, simply call the hotel at (916) 929-7900 — and be sure to ask for the LPC Convention rate.

To register for the LPC's 1997 Convention, use the form on page 7 of this issue of *LPC Monthly*. For more details (including vendor's information), write Liberty Convention Services, 10201 Rockingham Drive, Sacramento, California, 95827. You can also telephone (916) 362-0855 or e-mail inquiries to LibConServ@aol.com. ■

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- ▶ *Regional News and Events*

LPC Monthly

January 1997

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LPC Monthly is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions contained herein do not necessarily represent official party positions unless indicated.

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Send materials for publication to *LPC Monthly's* mailing address. All submissions are subject to editing. Deadline is the fifth day of every month.

Send changes of address to: Libertarian Party of California, 655 Lewelling Blvd. #362, San Leandro, CA, 94579.

LETTERS

Prop. 209

In deciding to temporarily halt enforcement of anti-discrimination Prop. 209, Judge Thelton Henderson wrote that "Courts must look beyond the plain language of an enactment." In other words, the main point is not what the law says or what we voters meant when we approved it, but whether it fits someone's idea of "fairness."

Somehow, we've let this idea of fairness get out of hand. There are those who call hiring on the basis of merit "racist on the face of it." Isn't this a direct insult to all "disadvantaged" people, implying that they're not good enough to measure up? I can't speak for anyone else, but I can tell you why I voted for Prop. 209. As a Libertarian, I believe discrimination is wrong and I want government to stop doing it. No special privileges for anyone, be they rich, poor, old, young, blue, green, or purple.

I have just one question for those who oppose Prop. 209: What part of "equal" don't you understand?

RICHARD CRAWFORD
Napa, CA

I'll Buy That

Every day I see infomercials trying to sell products that I think a very small percentage of the people buy. I also believe that many of these products are being sold by small companies. Infomercials air at the oddest times and on the strangest channels, but they do work! People see them.

Why can't the Libertarian Party put together an infomercial that introduces the party's principles and asks people to become members? Half hour infomercials — shown in the middle of the night, on weekends or whenever — could introduce the party to a whole new set of people.

JOE SIMAO
Cloverdale, CA

Enough Already

I sent the following to Alex Bennett, host of a San Francisco radio show, in response to an interview he conducted with the newly appointed speaker Pro Tem of the California Assembly:

I listened to your interview with Sheila Kuehl, who whined about making only \$75,000 a year. Actually, I'd say she is getting paid too much. We would be better off if our legislators

A Message from the POC

As we begin the new year with a new publication and high hopes for the growth of Liberty, it is important to remember that tomorrow's fruits come from yesterday's labor. With this in mind, the members of the Publications Oversight Committee (POC) hope that you will all join us in expressing our appreciation to the former editor and publisher of *LPC News*, Mr. Richard Venable.

Over the past two years, Mr. Venable has labored over the birth of each issue of *LPC News* — with superlative results. For his contribution in time and creative energy, which exceeded the scope of any contract, we offer our sincerest "Thank you!"

ALLAN L. SWAIN
Chairman, POC

returned to part-time status. Every time they are in session, the citizens of California suffer; and the longer they are in session, the more we suffer. Full-time politicians are full-time leeches. If they had to do their work in less time, they would probably spend it more efficiently and save us all a great deal of money.

Furthermore, I wish you had asked Ms. Kuehl how much she spent to get elected. I'd bet her campaign cost upwards of \$200,000. I have to question the intelligence of a person who would spend upwards of \$200,000 every two years to secure a job that only pays \$75,000 per annum. Either they don't understand simple mathematics or the position entails greater rewards than they are willing to talk about in public. Either way, these are not the kinds of people I want making decisions that affect the state — and I think we should all be suspicious of politicians who say they don't get paid enough for what they do.

TERRY FLOYD
San Leandro, CA

Send your letters to:

LPC Monthly

P.O. Box 2193

Hollywood, CA 90078

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Libertarian Office Holders

California Libertarians Win More Seats in Government

The 1996 election is over but news of Libertarians elected or appointed to government positions across the state continues to trickle in. And pretty good news it is...

One of the Libertarian Party's most prominent office holders, Thomas Tryon, was reelected to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors by approximately 300 votes (about 56%). Interestingly, Tryon campaigned on traditional Libertarian virtues while his "law and order" opponent ran as a staunch supporter of the war on drugs — and vigorously attempted to smear Tryon on that issue. His efforts failed.

In addition to Tryon, numerous other Libertarians won or held onto official positions in California governments. Maintaining a complete and accurate list of these individuals is somewhat difficult because most of their offices are non-

partisan. Nevertheless, such a listing would include: Mark Bakalor (Chairman, San Jose Youth Commission), Peter Barry, M.D. (Mayor, City of Ross), Bill Evers (Member, California Academic Standards Commission), Bonnie Flickinger (Member, Moreno Valley City Council), Michael Geller (Parking Hearing Administrator, Moreno Valley), Michael Gentry (Member, Lake Los Angeles Town Council), Thomas Gligorea (Municipal Court Judge, San Diego County), Richard H. Halvorson, (San Diego County Department of Health Consumer Advisory Committee and Commissioner, San Diego Crime Commission), Fred Heiser (Member, Santa Clarita Economic Development Council), Erik Henrikson (Board Director, Tahoe City Public Utilities), Nyle Keller (Trustee, Loomis County School Board), Anne Lindl (Member,

Livermore Unified School District School Board), David McCann (Director, Orangevale Recreation and Parks District), LeRoy Nelson (Member, Manhattan Beach Unified School District Board of Governors), Kate O'Brien (Chair, Menlo Park Arts Commission), Art Olivier (Member, Bellflower City Council), Robert Patchin (Mayor, City of Villa Park), Richard Rider (Chairman, California Constitution Revision Commission, San Diego County Social Services Advisory Board), Dennis Schlumpf (Board Director, Tahoe City Public Utility), Jean Taborsky (Member, Transportation and Safety Commission, City of Bellflower), Thomas Tryon (Supervisor, Calaveras County), Brad Walker (Airports Commissioner, Santa Clara County) and Sandi Webb (Member, Simi Valley City Council). ■

Officer Elections

LPC to Select Officers and Execom Members at 1997 Convention

Among the most important official actions taken by delegates at the Libertarian Party of California's 1997 Convention will be the election of state officers and executive committee members. Officers serve two-year terms while execom members are elected or reelected annually. Positions are filled via nomination and ballot.

Five officers are to be chosen: State Chair, Northern Vice-Chair, Southern Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The Execom is comprised of five At-Large voting members, two alternates, and one additional voting representative from each of the party's five largest regions (appointed by the region's chair).

Current LPC Chair Gail Lightfoot has declared her intention to seek reelection. Various party leaders have urged her to do so in order to continue the growth and momentum that the LPC has enjoyed

during her term.

Southern Vice Chair Richard H. Halvorson has indicated he will not seek reelection or stand for another state office. Treasurer Jon Petersen has announced his intention to run for the Northern Vice Chair position, currently held by Cullene Lang. Secretary Jose Casteñeda has declared that he will seek a second term.

Of the five At-Large Execom Reps, Ted Brown (R63) said: "I'll probably run — unless Region 63 gains sixty new members in the next thirty days, in which case I'll run for Regional Rep!" Allan Swain (R45) has announced he will run again in order to continue improving inter-party communications. At the time we go to press, the remaining At-Large Reps and Alternates have not indicated if they will seek reelection.

Concerning the present regional repre-

sentatives: Terry Savage (R01) has recently relocated to Nevada and therefore will not hold an LPC post in 1997; Linda Grau (R30) will seek re-appointment; Mark Valverde (R38) will not; and

Continued on page 10

Announcement

Anyone wishing to propose changes and/or additions to the LPC's platform to be considered at the 1997 Convention should submit an advance copy to:

Ted Brown
LPC Platform Committee Chair
9152 Arcadia Ave.
San Gabriel, CA 91775
FAX: (818) 286-7837
E-mail: tedb@mail.idt.net

Getting It Done With Gail:

A New Year and a New Beginning

by Gail Lightfoot

Good news: our fundraising efforts in 1996 exceeded projections! Thanks to all of you for supporting the LPC in this vital election year. At the convention in February, there will be a report comparing the results of last year's economical, effective fundraising cards and letters to previous efforts. Keep that political mother's milk coming and the LPC will be ready for 1998 by November of 1997.



In December, we mailed 5,500 copies of the final issue of *LPC News*. This edition of our new periodical, *LPC Monthly*, should go out to even more new readers. Let us know how you like the change. The new editor, Perry Martin, will be letting you know how to order extra copies of this newsletter for distribution in your area, should you wish to do so.

By now, an LPC membership invitation letter should have gone out to the 10,000 individuals most recently registered as Libertarians California. I will let you know how many of them decide to join us as members and donors.

This year, the LPC Convention agenda contains officer and committee report presentations. Previously, because of the half-day business sessions, those reports were set aside. The ExCom passed a motion in August 1996 requiring that each member of the committee provide a written report by year's end. These reports will be reviewed and presented orally to convention delegates.

It has been suggested that I use the initial meeting (on February 17, 1997) of

the newly elected Executive Committee as an orientation session for those members. I have decided to do so. The LPC has developed informational manuals for all new ExCom members. When those manuals are distributed at the meeting, their contents and all reports will be reviewed by outgoing officers. The only business for the newly elected ExCom to conduct that day will be approving the budget and setting their next meeting date, time and location.

If you are interested in serving on the LPC ExCom, contact any LPC officer for detailed job descriptions and advice. Serving the LPC in this way can be both fun and rewarding.

Finally, I wish to announce that I am running for re-election as LPC Chair. No, I am not crazy — I just have not finished all that I want to do. Doing the job and refining how it is done burns-up twice the time. Gaining the cooperation and assistance of activists takes a great deal of effort. Making sure that what each person does is accepted and rewarded is also a painstaking process. If your delegates to the convention decide to let me continue "Getting It Done" in 1997, then I'm ready, willing and even better able to do so.

"If your delegates to the convention decide to let me continue 'Getting It Done' in 1997, then I am ready willing, and even better able to do so."

During the past two years, I have helped the LPC make numerous improvements in how it functions. Continuing this process, we can hand-over to the new Chair and Executive Committee of 1999 an smoothly running operation that will face the year 2000 with renewed vigor, effectiveness and enthusiasm.

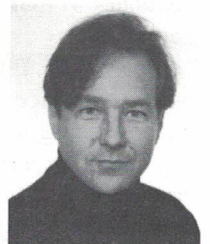
I hope I can count on you to help me realize that goal. ■

From The Editor:

Introducing LPC Monthly

by Perry Martin

Welcome to the first issue of *LPC Monthly*, the new official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. As you can see, this publication has a different format than its immediate predecessor, *LPC News*. However, its spirit and its goal are the same — to provide you, the members of the LPC, with a libertarian perspective on today's news, information about our organization's activities and events, and a forum to exchange ideas. I hope you like the new look and welcome your ideas and suggestions for further improvements.



I would like to dedicate this issue, to all of the editor/publishers and staffs of previous LPC periodicals. Producing a quality newsletter is not easy, and those who have come before me have provided the LPC with an unbroken chain of fine publications. Indeed, they have established a high standard for me to live up to — and I have every intention of honoring their efforts by doing so.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a very special note of appreciation to Gail Lightfoot and Richard Venable, Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor respectively of *LPC News*, for all of the guidance, support and encouragement they have given me during this period of transition. They have been nothing short of wonderful.

It is my goal to produce a newsletter that you will find valuable, enjoyable and worthy of pride. Furthermore, I want you to think of this publication as your own: the submission of letters, articles, news items, columns, announcements, photos and artwork is enthusiastically encouraged. This is a place for all of us to come together — so let me and everyone else in the LPC hear from you. In the meantime, enjoy! ■

Two New Libertarian Radio Shows

Hear that? California's airwaves are buzzing with a growing swarm of Libertarian talk radio show hosts. Now there are two more: Santa Clara's Terry Savage and San Diego's Joe Colannino.

A member of Region 43 and a Regional Representative on the LPC's Execom, Terry Savage has just announced that his occasional stints at KSCO AM1080 in Santa Cruz have just become regular. Savage's show can now be heard every Saturday at 6:00 p.m. "If you're near the San Francisco bay area," he enthused, "you can probably receive it. I hope all local Libertarians will listen-in and call me when they can!"

Joining Savage on the airwaves is Joe "Tax Cut" Colannino, who caused a local stir during the last election, when he ran for a seat on the Oceanside City Council, by insisting that his nickname be included on the ballot. Colannino's new show airs on KCEO AM1000 in San Diego's North County from 8:00-9:00 p.m. every third Monday. His next show will broadcast on January 20, Martin Luther King Day. "I plan to focus on the real meaning of King's 'I Have a Dream' speech" says Colannino, who, like Savage, urges local Libertarians to call-in and support him. ■

Mailing Director Wanted

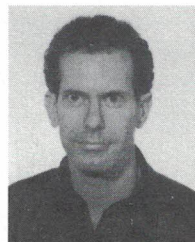
The Editor is looking for a volunteer to join the staff of *LPC Monthly* as Mailing Director, responsible for organizing the newsletter's bulk mailing every month. Applicants should be thoroughly reliable and professional, and reside in Southern California. Prior experience with processing bulk mail is not required. Those interested should e-mail the editor at LPCMonthly@aol.com, or telephone (213) 876-3685.

Taking Liberties:

My Chat with the Chief

by David Dorfman

Recently I had the honor of interviewing President William Jefferson Clinton. As our conversation began, the President looked relaxed but a bit confused — perhaps wondering how I'd managed to slip past security and into the Oval Office...



Q: Mr. President, now that you've won reelection, can you define yourself politically, once and for all?

A: Sure. I'm a tax-and-spend liberal who plans to expand the government and kill the free market.

Q: That's surprisingly direct of you, sir.

A: Well, I'm a little more relaxed now that I finally got around to inhaling. That is one sweet feeling, baby!

Q: Now, when you say you want to expand the government, how big exactly do you envision it?

A: BIG! Huge. I'm talking Roseanne-size government!

Q: Any specifics?

A: More pointless programs, more stifling regulation, and lots more big-assed entitlements.

Q: Speaking of entitlements, how do you plan to save Medicare?

A: Through a fifty-dollars-a-gallon gas tax.

Q: Fifty-dollars-a-gallon? But then Americans won't be able to drive.

A: Of course they will. Because I'm gonna increase the minimum wage to one hundred dollars an hour.

Q: A hundred dollars an hour? Won't that force most businessmen to shut down?

A: So what? They can all get great new jobs that pay a hundred dollars an hour!

Q: Let's talk about your foreign policy. Critics call it vague, nebulous and

ambiguous.

A: No, that'd be my economic policy. My foreign policy is incoherent, illogical and ill-concieved. I think I've been very clear about that.

Q: The Democrats have been accused of appropriating their ideas from the Republicans. Do you think your party is intellectually bankrupt?

A: No, we've come up with plenty of ideas.

Q: Can you name one?

A: What about Health Care? That was ours.

Q: It was a disaster!

A: Oh, you mean good ideas? *(pause)* Can I get back to you on that one?

Q: How do you respond to persistent rumors that you had Vince Foster murdered?

A: That's ridiculous! Vince committed suicide. In fact, I spoke to him the night before he died, and he was severely depressed.

Q: What was he depressed about?

A: Mainly about the fact that I'd just ordered hitmen to kill him. *(Laughs)*

Q: Are you worried about the Paula Jones lawsuit?

A: Heck, no. I spoke to Paula last night — and she was "severely depressed". *(Winks)*

Q: Do you have any concerns about Whitewater?

A: None at all. I have full confidence that when the smoke clears, I and my wife, Cassandra, will finally be able to sleep in peace.

Q: Cassandra? Don't you mean Hillary?

A: No, she'll be bakin' cookies in Leavenworth. That's when I marry Cassandra. Yee-haw! ■



Let Freedom R

Don't

The Libertarian Pa 1997 COI

Capitol Tour!

SEE the grandeur of the California's Capitol Building. Visit the restored Senate and Assembly chambers. Tour the museum featuring seven historic offices furnished exactly as they were in 1906.

Sunset Dinner Cruise!

DEPART from Old Sacramento — the original "Gold Rush" town — for a wonderful two hour sunset cruise and dinner on the Sacramento River aboard an authentic 1800's paddle-wheel riverboat.

Convention Packages and Prices:

Connoisseur Package \$300

All meals and speakers at the convention.

Gourmet Package \$190

Includes all meal functions at the convention. (Does not include Riverboat Dinner Cruise or Capitol tour.)

Intellectual Package \$140

Includes all speakers at the convention. (Does not include meals, Riverboat Dinner Cruise, or Capitol tour.)

Riverboat Dinner Cruise \$50

Thursday: a sunset cruise and dinner on an authentic Riverboat departing from "Old Town" Sacramento.

State Capitol Tour \$10

Friday: a guided tour of the State Capitol Building with a hands-on lesson in tracking bills through the Senate and Assembly.

Yes! I'm coming to Sacramento for...

The Libertarian Party of California's 1997 CONVENTION

Special Events! Guest Speakers! Panels! Free "Grass Roots" Seminar!
Of course I'll be there!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Return to:

Liberty Convention Services

10201 Rockingham Drive
Sacramento, CA 95827

ing in Sacramento!

miss...

Party of California's CONVENTION

Grassroots Seminar!

MEET experienced activists who will share their success secrets for local networking, event planning, effective dealings with bureaucracies and membership building.
FREE to all LPC members!

Guest Speakers & Panel Discussions!

ATTEND the many exciting, entertaining and informative guest speakers and panel discussions! Speakers and panels to be announced soon.

I would like the following...

- ☐ Connoisseur Package (\$300)\$ _____
- ☐ Riverboat Dinner Cruise (\$50)\$ _____
- ☐ Gourmet Package (\$190)\$ _____
- ☐ State Capitol Tour (\$10)\$ _____
- ☐ Intellectual Package (\$140)\$ _____
- ☐ I prefer Vegetarian meals (no extra charge)\$ _____

Total\$ _____

If purchasing the Connoisseur or Gourmet Packages, please choose one of the following for the Saturday Banquet:

- ☐ Medallions of Beef ☐ Roast Chicken

Payment:

- ☐ Check/money order (payable to Liberty Convention Services)
- ☐ Please Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

Convention Schedule

Thursday, Feb. 13

"Grassroots" Seminar
Riverboat Dinner Cruise

Friday, Feb. 14

"Grassroots" Seminar
Execom Meeting
Platform Committee Mtng
Bylaws Committee Mtng
Capitol Tour
Welcoming Reception

Saturday, Feb. 15

Keynote Speaker
General Business Session
Speakers & Panels
Awards and Fundraising
Grand Banquet

Sunday, Feb. 16

General Business Session
Afternoon Speakers
Hayseed Festival
Dinner

Monday, Feb. 17

General Business Session
Officers and Executive
Committee Elections
Sam Adams Luncheon
& Awards Ceremony
New Execom Meeting



Around the State

News from LPC Regions all across California



Region 34's "Libertarian Gang" discuss the issues on their weekly cable TV show.

Sacramento's Cable to Liberty

This month, Sacramento Libertarians (R34) will videotape the 300th episode of their own cable-access television show, "The Libertarian Gang". The series, which premiered in March 1991, follows the format of network gabfests like "The McLaughlin Group" — only its panel of pundits discuss today's hot issues from a Libertarian perspective.

"This series is a great outreach tool," says Producer **Michael McHale**, a local high school teacher and LPC activist. "Our goal is to make freedom and responsibility seem less frightening and more appealing, as opposed to the way those ideas are commonly presented by the government and mainstream media. And reactions have been very positive."

In addition to McHale, the regular panelists of "The Libertarian Gang" include **Richard Fields** (Moderator), **Joseph Farina** (Region Chair), **Patrick Nestlehut** (Region Vice-Chair), **Fred Rouse** (El Dorado County Chair) and **Adam Chacksfield** (LPC member and Ph.D. student). While every member of the group is solidly libertarian, each voice is distinctive and makes a unique

contribution. For example, Nestlehut, the youngest member of the panel, says that he attempts "to appeal to the libertarian-streak in my fellow Generation-Xers by using our language and perspective."

Occasionally, "the gang" invites others into their circle. Past guests have included columnist **Alan Bock**, who talked about his book "Ambush At Ruby Ridge"; **Eugene Byrd**, Sheriff of Isleton, a strong Second Amendment supporter who discussed his issuance of concealed weapon permits; and **Richard Rider**, the LPC's 1994 gubernatorial candidate.

"The Libertarian Gang" meets every other Thursday to tape two episodes of their series, which airs on Sacramento Cable Channel 17 three times a week: Thursdays at 8:00 p.m., Fridays at 2:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. Working behind the scenes are many dedicated volunteers unfortunately too numerous to mention.

For more information about "The Libertarian Gang", check out its website at www.cwo.com/~meister. ■

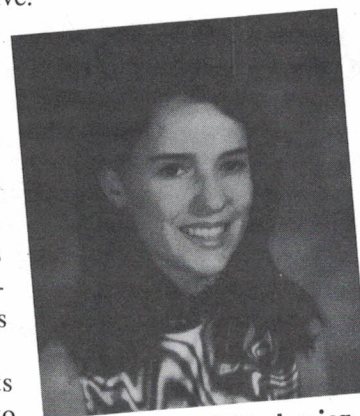
New Libertarian Youth Group in Sutter/Yuba

Iwant to bring young people together to learn about the Libertarian way of life," says **Jessica**, a fifteen-year-old high school freshman in the Sutter/Yuba area (R51). "Most young people don't realize they have another choice to the current system, and that obtaining political freedom now is important to us because the laws that the politicians are making affect our future."

Jessica is one of five core members of the Libertarian Youth Society (LYS), a new group founded and supervised by R51's energetic Public Relations Director, **Karen Davis**. LYS's goal: to promote libertarianism within the family, particularly young people.

"We need to find ways to share our ideas on a personal level," says Davis. "Most people — including young people

— will behave responsibly and respectfully in situations that reward it. There is a powerful independent spirit in today's youth drawing them toward libertarianism. I created LYS to give young people in my area a place



R51's new activist, Jessica

where they can discuss their ideas about freedom — and know that such ideas are important."

LYS meets once a month at local coffee shops, ice cream parlors and pizza restaurants to socialize and plan activities. Last year the group sponsored a Valentine's Day party at a retirement home, a garage sale and fundraisers.

"We need to find ways to share our ideas on a more personal level."

—Karen Davis, Region 51

Davis plans more such activities for 1997. In addition, the LYS recently adopted a logo mascot, "Lil' Libby", from an original design by artist **Carol Eylar** of Grass Valley.



LYS Logo

The group has created a line of "Lil' Libby" tee-shirts and stationary products, which it sells as part of their fundraising efforts. All proceeds are split with R51.

Davis would eventually like to see additional LYS chapters forming in other regions. Anyone interested in learning more about the group or its line of products, can e-mail her at Kare@oro.net. ■

New Sonoma Supper Club

Anyone seeking proof that one individual can make a difference will need look no further than R49's **John Howard**. A freelance software developer and longtime LP activist, Howard has brought energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the libertarian movement wherever he has gone. Currently, he is exercising his talents in Sonoma County — a region that has been dormant for a while.

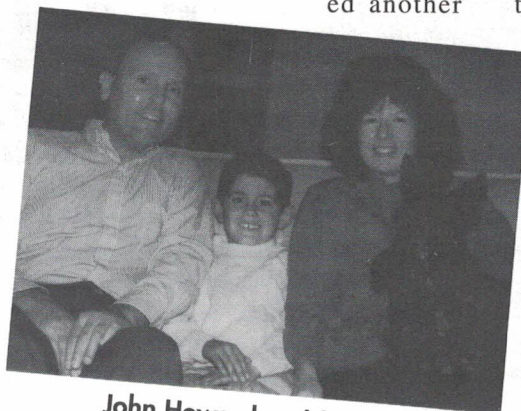
Last December 4th, Howard inaugurated the first Free Sonoma Forum, a supper club for local Libertarians and other like-minded individuals. He organized the event and invited members of the nearby Marin and Santa Rosa LPC regions, a local militia group, several anti-gun control organizations, and the Marin United Taxpayers. His efforts paid-off big time: 32 people showed up — a very impressive turn-out for a first-time event. "We could barely fit everyone into the room," laughed Howard. "We outgrew our venue in one meeting!"

A native of Los Angeles, Howard

became a Libertarian after moving to Orange County in the mid 1970s. "I've always been wary of socialism," he says, "and, at first, thought the Republican Party was the place to fight it. Then, in 1980, Ronald Reagan supported the government bail-out of the Chrysler Corporation, and I started to look elsewhere. I'd heard about the Libertarians and always thought they were too extreme. But I was desperate and decided to give them a chance. One night, I attended a local LP meeting and discovered my political home!"

Howard joined the LP right away. "I worked for Ed Clark's presidential campaign," he said. "That same year I also organized the California Libertarian Music Festival (a fundraiser) and joined Orange County's supper club. I got my hands on every libertarian book I could and found myself at coffee shops discussing ideas with other Libertarians until 2:00 a.m.! Some of them are still among my best friends."

In 1981, Howard moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and established a supper club there. In 1982, he relocated to Marin County and co-founded another



John Howard and family.

supper club. Then, in 1986, Howard decided he needed a break and curtailed his political efforts. Three years later, he moved to Sonoma County, where he remained inactive for some time. Then came 1996



LPC Chair Gail Lightfoot joined R40 Chair Gary Kirkland at a December celebration of the LP's 25th anniversary.

(Photo: Richard Venable)

Libertarian Presidential Candidate Harry Browne. "He was such a superb candidate that I got enthused again and organized the Free Sonoma Forum."

Howard does not intend to officially align the Free Sonoma Forum with the LP — although he will provide libertarian literature and speakers at the meetings. "My hope is to attract people of all political stripes," he explains, "Libertarians, anarchists, militia members, John Birchers, Objectivists, Greens and, of course, Demopublicans. All of these groups have at least some worthwhile ideas not being discussed by the others. I don't want the Forum to be another Libertarian church preaching to the converted, and I'm confident enough in our positions to encourage other viewpoints to be expressed. Besides, there's nothing like a debate to keep things lively!"

Beginning this month, the Free Sonoma Forum will meet on second Thursdays. On January 9, their guest speaker Jeffrey Rogers Hummel will discuss "The Economic Impact of the Civil War: One Nation Under Big Government." Location: Carrow's Restaurant, at the corner of E. Washington and S. McDowell Ave. streets in Peteluma. For more information,

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Around the State

(Continued from Page 9)

contact John Howard via e-mail at 74633.120@compuserve.com. You can also telephone him at (707) 769-9531 or access the Forum's websit at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/johnhoward/homepage.htm>. ■

San Diego's Sign of Individual Responsibility

Since April of last year, San Diego area motorists traveling north on I-15 have seen a sign reminding them of the Libertarian Party's commitment to individual responsibility. While R37's highway cleanup project recently folded, the posting remains — a notice to passerbys that San Diego Libertarians did their share to keep the public roads litter-free.

"After drivers get bored looking at all the greenery," said **Bill Holmes**, one of the project's coordinators, "they take notice of the Lawrence Welk development. In the middle of their view is our sign. Immediately before it is a huge dirt turn-out that provided a great parking area for our clean-up crew and attracts attention to the sign."

Holmes supported the project's mastermind and organizer, **Mary Szterpakiewicz**, by providing his seven passenger van (complete with "Vote Libertarian" banners) to transport volunteers to-and-from the clean-up site, and a utility trailer to haul away the trash they collected. The project terminated when Holmes recently relocated to Palmdale, taking his van and trailer with him. The sign will come down as soon as CalTrans finds another sponsor for the area.



"But for now," says Holmes, "the sign's still up. In addition, I have developed a full set of operating procedures to minimize the labor investment and maximize the effectiveness for other regions interested in sponsoring similar litter removal projects in their areas. I'll be putting that and other information on our website very soon." ■

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Officer Elections

(Continued from Page 3)

Dante Ridley (R37) and Joseph Dehn (R43) have not announced their intentions.

Anyone seeking to throw their hat into the ring should have prior experience at the regional level. They should also be able to work well with others, to participate in sub-committees, to provide reports on their activities, to regularly communicate with state officers and other committee members, and to attend the quarterly meetings held around the state. ■

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